GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1227
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
MENTAL RETARDATION
Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some children are born mentally retarded ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the causes leading to mental retardation at pre-natal stage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) About 2% of the child population in 1-14 age groups is affected by developmental delays.

(b) The known causative factors include:

i. Genetic factors
ii. Antenatal factors
iii. Childhood factors

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check the causes leading to mental retardation at pre-natal stagte:

i. Increasing the age at marriage
ii. Provision of MMR vaccine
iii. Ensuring 100% coverage of antenatal care
iv. Promotion of institutional deliveries
v. Ensuring skilled attendants at births
vi. Provision of essential new born care
vii. Promotion of use of iodized salt.